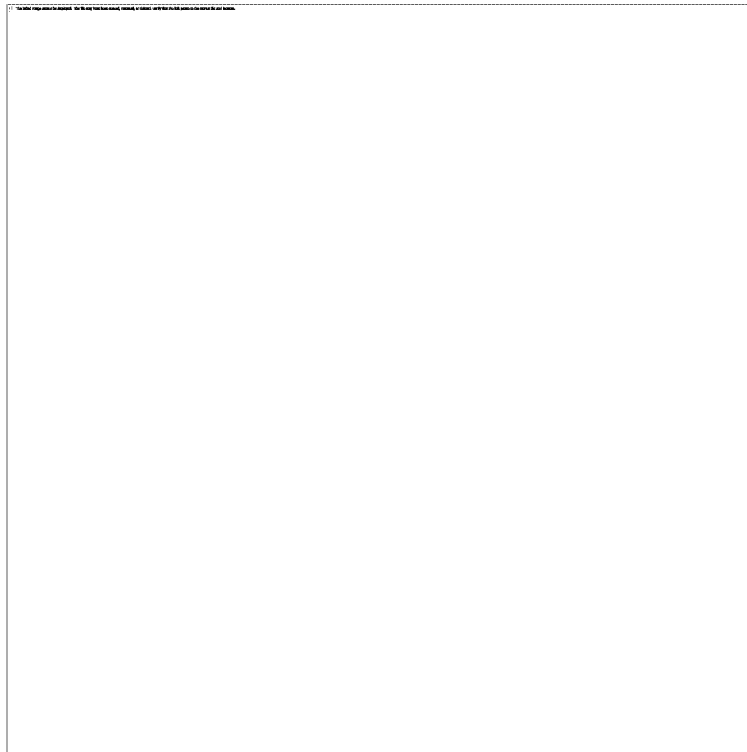
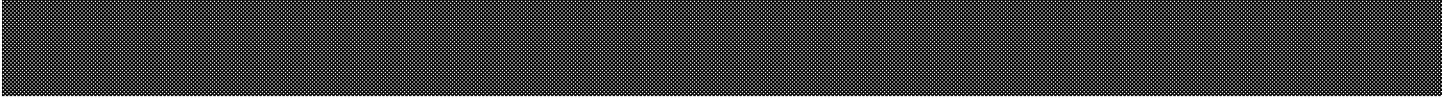


Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 2/7/2020 1:50:52 PM
To: Quast, Sylvia [Quast.Sylvia@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Trump Signals Possible Reversal of Support for Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Project

Morning Consult Energy: Trump Signals Possible Reversal of Support for Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Project



By Brian Yermal Jr.

Top Stories

- President Donald Trump indicated on Twitter that he may no longer back the establishment of a nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain in Nevada following his administration's efforts to revive the project. Trump's re-election campaign chief in Nevada, Adam Laxalt, said he interpreted the president's comments as

supporting opponents of the Yucca Mountain project, which has been stalled for decades in the face of pushback from the Silver State's key elected officials, such as former Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid. ([The Associated Press](#))

- Tufan Erginbilgic, the head of BP PLC's downstream business, is leaving the company in March after six years in the role. Erginbilgic's decision comes two days after Chief Executive Bernard Looney took over for former CEO Bob Dudley and follows the announcement of Chief Financial Officer Brian Gilvary's decision to step down in June. ([Reuters](#))
- Venezuelan authorities have moved six U.S. oil executives of Citgo Petroleum Corp. from house arrest to a prison, U.S. envoy Elliott Abrams said, which comes after Trump met with Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó at the White House. The six Citgo employees, who have been detained without a trial since 2017, have been charged with corruption in Venezuela for their alleged roles in a \$4 billion financing deal with U.S. and Dubai investment funds. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))

Chart Review

OPEC Expects Russia to Respond in Days to Oil Output Cut Plan
Bloomberg

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

02/07/2020

National Association of State Energy Officials 2020 Energy Policy
Outlook Conference and Innovation Summit

Atlantic Council discussion featuring Energy Secretary Dan
Brouillette

10:30
am

02/10/2020

National Ethanol Conference

02/11/2020

Advanced Reactors Summit VII

National Ethanol Conference

02/12/2020

Advanced Reactors Summit VII

19th Annual LNG Conference

National Ethanol Conference

[View full calendar](#)

Special Report: The State of Consumer Trust

As the new decade begins, Morning Consult's **The State of Consumer Trust** report is the first look at how today's societal forces are shaping a new era of trust. Based on interviews with thousands of consumers, the report provides actionable intelligence into how companies can earn and deepen trust with customers.

[Download the full report.](#)

General

Carbon Storage, Direct Air Capture Bill Gains Momentum **Dean Scott, Bloomberg Environment**

A bill that has already gotten bipartisan Senate backing to spur underground storage and direct air capture of carbon dioxide emissions gained momentum Thursday, as top House Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats praised the measure even as they called for significant changes.

EPA's Ex-California Boss Cites 'Frustration' With Leadership **Stephen Lee, Bloomberg Environment**

Michael Stoker, administrator of the EPA region that covers California, Nevada, and Arizona, abruptly left the agency on Wednesday.

Ocasio-Cortez, Levin eye national EV network in five years **Rachel Frazin, The Hill**

Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and Andy Levin (D-Mich.) on Thursday outlined a bill that seeks to establish a nationwide electric vehicle charging network within five years.

Oil Heads for Fifth Weekly Loss as Demand Concerns Dominate **Alex Longley, Bloomberg**

Oil headed for a fifth weekly loss as demand concerns grow in Asia and Europe, while OPEC+ awaited Russia's response to its proposal to cut output further.

Oil and Natural Gas

An oil company wants to take CO2 from air. Here's why **Benjamin Storrow, E&E News**

Occidental Petroleum Corp., the Texas shale titan, is trying to transform itself into a "carbon manager." In the past two years, it has invested in an array of enterprises aimed at cutting carbon from factories, power plants and the atmosphere itself.

Reliance, Chevron defend against U.S. criticism of oil business with Venezuela

Nidhi Verma and Timothy Gardner, Reuters

India's Reliance Industries and U.S.-based Chevron Corp on Thursday defended their business with Venezuela from White House criticism, noting that their marketing agreements and operations in the OPEC nation have been approved by Washington.

Big Oil begins to broaden scope of its carbon emissions targets

Ben Geman, Axios

Only a very small handful of oil companies have laid out any kind of targets around Scope 3 emissions, which make up the vastly larger pollution from the use of their products in the economy, but that's quickly changing amid rising activist and investor pressure on oil giants over global warming.

US oil, gas rig count drops 16 to 838 on the week amid disciplined early 2020 outlooks

Starr Spencer, S&P Global Platts

The total US oil and natural gas rig count dropped by 16 to 838 on the week, drilling data provider Enverus said Thursday, with the biggest in-basin changes coming from Appalachia amid persistently lower gas prices, and the Permian Basin.

Utilities and Infrastructure

ACLU sues Montana over Keystone XL protest plans

The Associated Press

Civil liberties advocates are taking Montana officials to court to force the public release of documents detailing the government's planned response to anticipated protests against the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Austin Sues to Stop \$2 Billion Pipeline Construction

Maya Earls, Bloomberg Environment

Construction on a natural gas pipeline in Texas will illegally put endangered species at risk, the City of Austin says in a new lawsuit.

Climate change fears put US gas utilities on defensive

Gregory Meyer, Financial Times

AGA details its commitments for a lower-carbon economy as opposition to pipelines and connections rises.

Renewables

Shell to Build First Big Solar Plant in Move to Power Production

James Thornhill, Bloomberg

Royal Dutch Shell Plc will build its first large-scale solar farm as part of its plan to expand into power generation.

Floating wind turbines poised to grow but hampered by costs **L.M. Sixel, Houston Chronicle**

Offshore wind generation is growing rapidly and is expected to make up 25 percent of total wind capacity by 2028, up from 10 percent in 2019, according to a new study from the research firm Wood Mackenzie.

Coal

EPA, big business spar over Mo. coal plants **Jeffrey Tomich, E&E News**

Big business is rushing to defend Midwest utility Ameren Missouri in its appeal of a novel court ruling requiring the utility to add pollution controls at a St. Louis-area coal-fired power plant to compensate for years of excess emissions at another nearby plant.

Nuclear

Fusion Startups Step In To Realize Decades-Old Clean Power Dream

Daniel Michaels, The Wall Street Journal

If Nick Hawker's computer models are right, the snap of a pistol shrimp's claw holds the secret to boundless clean energy. Mr. Hawker's company, First Light Fusion, is one of around two dozen startups chasing the dream of generating electricity by squeezing atoms together.

Climate

DNC climate council kicks off public action

Rachel Frazin, The Hill

A new Democratic National Committee (DNC) climate council will help the party shape its 2020 environmental platform.

Temperature in Antarctica touches record high of more than 18C

Camilla Hodgson, Financial Times

Scientists warn of devastating effects of global warming on ice sheets in polar regions.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Clean Water Protection, Business-Friendly Development Are Not Mutually Exclusive

Doug Davis, Morning Consult

For decades, there has been a false belief that business-friendly development interests and environmental water protection are at odds with one another. In the 21st century, that couldn't be further from the truth.

A Five-Decade Rivalry Is Playing Out at OPEC+

David Fickling, Bloomberg

Revenge, they say, is a dish best served cold. That seems to be the view of the Russian government, as it contemplates how to respond to pleas that it join Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members in cutting oil production.

Research Reports

Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery: FEMA Actions Needed to Strengthen Project Cost Estimation and Awareness of Program Guidance

U.S. Government Accountability Office

After 2 hurricanes devastated Puerto Rico in 2017, FEMA identified about 10,000 damaged sites including schools, hospitals, and roads needing funds to repair or rebuild.



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